

The 2019 OTT Series adopted a new format this year with the final for both codes being run on the Sunday of the Dual Code Spectacular to bring the weekends festivities to an end. Although the numbers were down on previous years the tightness of the competition was outstanding. Due to the extreme conditions, or horses going amiss resulted in only 4 hours presenting for judging in both the Elementary and Open Sections. With Mark Lilley judging the Standardbreds in Led and Ridden in previous classes, our Victorian judge Bev Richards would be the visiting judge accompanied by astute harness trainer & breeder Keven Keys, prominent show horse breeder Christy Boyland and renowned dressage judge Nadine Herbert formed the panel of judges for the event.

Each judge was required to score all horses on their ridden workout and then for type and conformation when stripped. With only a small contingent of competitors in each section, it would be imperative to score evenly with all judges for the substantial cash purse for the winner, kindly put up by OTTWA and RWWA.

The Elementary qualifiers that presented for judging were Starzz By Mee (Catherine Piper), Peregrine Lilly (Rosie Atkins), Raymond John (Paula McGregor) and Black Pontiac (Kylah Madden). All horses worked superbly during their set workouts under saddle before then presenting forth the Led component. Each judge carefully inspected each horse and as their score cards were handed in and calculated, the competitors re-entered the arena mounted to present for the presentation. The first award to be presented was the Industry award with only horses who had raced or trialed being eligible. Harness identity, Keven Keys made the selection for this award with the gelding Black Pontiac taking the win. The next award was the Smartest on Parade for the best overall presentation of both rider and horse combination. The picture-perfect Raymond John and Paula McGregor were rewarded for their efforts of detail to take out first place. Now would be the announcement of the 2nd R/Up, R/Up and winner of the main award. Starzzz By Me was called forward for the 2nd R/Up before Raymond John would be announced the R/Up for 2019. The winner of the OTTWA Final 2019 was the outstanding big robust gelding Black Pontiac who scored highly with all judges. It was a monument victory for his young owner and rider as to keep this horse eligible for this event they couldn't compete in any other competition for a number of months. Black Pontiac certainly has left the Elementary level of his ridden career in the best possible way.

It was disappointing to see only the four horses front up for the Open OTTWA Final and again it would prove that those that scored evenly with each judge would come to the fore. All of the four horses President Hoylake (Kerryn Davey), Hopestone (Chantelle Wells), Feel The Roth (Jacinta Pope) and AP Burlesque (Kristie Morrone) had engaged in classes throughout the weekend, with some electing to not overdo the classes on the Saturday and Sunday morning due to the enduring heat wave. Some of the more highly regarded horses to be prominent lacked that sparkle and looked a little jaded in their workouts after a heavy program over the weekend. As with the Elementary the same judges and format would apply through. The Industry award was awarded to President Hoylake and Kerryn Davey who ticked all the boxes for harness judge. The Best Presented accolades went to the on-point combination of AP Burlesque and Kristie Morrone. The R/Up for the OTTWA Final would go to the elegant and well schooled President Hoylake in what is his first year of competing in this series. The announcement of the winner would bring tears to her owner and rider Kristie Morrone when AP Burlesque was called forward to be sashed the winner for 2019. This mare was competing in her fourth OTT Final with a 4th placing on her debut to follow with two R/Ups at her previous attempts. It was a very smart move and training decision to only give the mare a warm up ridden class on the Saturday and not compete in Led on the Sunday that her not feeling the effects of a hard campaign. The competition was very close with all four horses having their favourites with each judge but this mare scored very consistently with all four judges. A fairy tale ending on a wonderful career at the top echelon of Standardbred showing.

SPPHAWA would sincerely like to thank our major sponsor for the OTTWA series and providing the rugs and garlands for the winners and the prize money. Our association, along with others are very privileged to have the support network you provide for both codes of OTT horses.

RESULTS

OPEN STANDARDBRED CLASSIC

WINNER – AP Burlesque (Kristie Morrone)
RUNNER UP – President Hoylake (Kerryn Davey)

*Industry Award- President Hoylake & Kerryn Davey
 Smartest On Parade- AP Burlesque & Kristie Morrone*

WALK/TROT STANDARDBRED CLASSIC

WINNER – Black Pontiac (Kylah Madden)
RUNNER UP – Raymond John (Paula McGregor)
2ND RUNNER UP – Starzz By Mee (Catherine Piper)

*Industry Award- Black Pontiac & Kylah Madden
 Smartest On Parade- Raymond John and Paula McGregor*

2019 OFF THE TRACK CLASSIC – PHOTO GALLERY



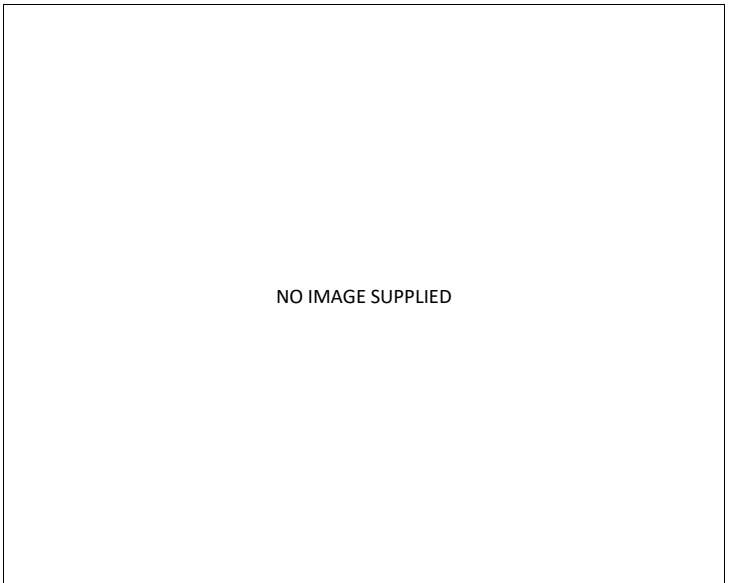
**OPEN WINNER:
AP BURLESQUE (Kristie Morrone)**



**Open Runner Up:
PRESIDENT HOYLAKE (Kerryn Davey)**



**WALK\TROT WINNER:
BLACK PONTIAC (Kylah Madden)**



NO IMAGE SUPPLIED

**Walk\Trot Runner Up:
RAYMOND JOHN (Paula McGregor)**



**Walk\Trot 2nd Runner Up:
STARZZZ BY ME (Catherine Piper)**

